

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SSM-03
NEAE-00 /084 W

-----029875 261842Z /66

O 261539Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4752
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
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TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: SADAT AND PRESS EXAGGERATE MOMENTUM OF
- NEGOTIATIONS

REF: CAIRO 02844 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. MEDIA EXAGGERATIONS SUGGEST PEACE PROCESS

MOVING FORWARD WITH U.S. AT CENTER OF ACTIVITY. PRESS SAYS ISRAEL AWAITING REPLY TO DRAFT IT HAS PASSED TO EGYPT. PRESS PLAYS UP DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN, HUMPHREY LETTER, KING HASSAN CALL FOR CONFRONTATION STATE SUMMIT AND TITO LETTER OF SUPPORT. EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO SAVAGE BEGIN "FOR SEEKING OBSTRUCT PEACE PROCESS" AND CAST "UNAMBIGUOUS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES" AS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS. SADAT PLACES SPOTLIGHT ON U.S. ROLE BUT STAND-OFFISH TONE IN AIR. END SUMMARY.

1. IN WIDELY REPORTED REMARKS, SADAT ANNOUNCED JANUARY 25 RECEIPT OF MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER IN RESPONSE TO MESSAGE HE HAD SENT TWO DAYS BEFORE. IN COMMENTS TO PRESS SADAT SAID IMPORTANT CONTACTS UNDERWAY ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES AND HE IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. HE SAID HE HAD NO ANSWER FROM U.S. ON ARMS REQUEST. HE "DID NOT OBJECT" TO QUIET DIPLOMACY SO THAT PARTIES COULD REEVALUATE POSITIONS. ACCORDING SADAT, ATHERTON WOULD BE IN CAIRO IN FEW DAYS "TO SEE FONMIN KAMEL". SADAT THOUGHT THAT MATTERS WOULD TAKE "NATURAL COURSE" WHEN AGREEMENT REACHED ON DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

2. SADAT MESSAGE. AHAM DIPLOMATIC EDITOR CLAIMED SADAT MESSAGE TO CARTER HAD REFERRED TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS, RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS, IMPORTANCE OF TIME ELEMENT AND ARMS MATTERS. MESSAGE ALLEGEDLY STRESSED NECESSITY OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES BASED ON (A) WITHDRAWAL; (B) POLITICAL RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR FUTURE "AS A STEP TO SELF-DETERMINATION"; AND (C) NATURE AND ELEMENTS OF PEACE.

3. DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. "ISRAELI OFFICIALS" REPORT THAT ISRAEL HAS SUBMITTED DRAFT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO EGYPTIANS AND REPLY AWAITED. OFFICIALS SAID TO BE UNDER STRICT SECRECY TO PERMIT QUIET DIPLOMACY TAKE ITS COURSE. WEIZMAN EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR CAIRO EARLY NEXT WEEK PRECEDED BY ATHERTON BEFORE END OF THIS WEEK. OTHER ISRAELI "RESPONSIBLE SOURCES" SAID ATHERTON ACTIVITIES AIMED AT ACHIEVING DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. TWO SIDES REPORTEDLY REACHED AGREEMENT ON FIVE OF SEVEN POINTS LEAVING ONLY QUESTIONS OF PALESTINIANS AND WITHDRAWAL TO BE SOLVED(*)

4. EGYPTIAN DIPLOMACY. PRESS CONTINUES PLAY UP UNLEASHING OF DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE, BEGINNING WITH CONVOCATION OF ARAB AMBASSADORS BY FONMIN JANUARY 26. KAMEL AND/OR BOUTROS GHALI WILL TAKE ON WEST EUROPEANS, LATINOS, ASIANS AND EAST EUROPEANS, ENDING MORNING OF JANUARY 29.

5. RAYS OF SUNSHINE. PRESS REPORTS WITH SATISFACTION
LETTER COMPOSED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY SHORTLY BEFORE HIS
DEATH CALLING ON BEGIN TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE
AND DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY. FRONT PAGES KING HASSAN
CALL FOR SUMMIT FO CONFRONTATION STATES AND VIEW THAT
PEACE NEGOTIATIONS FOUNDERING DUE TO SADAT INSISTENCE ON
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. PROMINENT COVERAGE OF TITO LETTER
TO SADAT SUPPORTING SEARCH FOR COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT
AND URGING CARTER BEGIN CONTACTS WITH PLO. AHRAM SAID
BOUTROS-GHALI WILL DEPART FOR BELGRADE IN NEXT FEW DAYS
WITH LENGTHY REPLY FROM SADAT.

6. COMMENTARY. EDITORIALS CONTINUE TO ATTACK BEGIN FOR
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"WILLFUL MISUNDERSTANDING" OF EGYPTIANS, SIDE TRACKING

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ACTION NEA-10

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OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH "OBSCENE ACCUSATIONS OF ANTI-
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SEMITISM" AND "PROVOCATIVE STATEMENTS" THAT OBSTRUCT
QUIET DIPLOMACY. AKHBAR EDITORIALIZED AT LENGTH THAT
SUCCESS OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL DEPEND ON REACHING DECLARA-
TION OF PRINCIPLES DEVOID OF AMBIGUITY TO BLOCK "ISRAELI
PHILOSOPHY OF EXPANSIONISM" AND FORCE ISRAEL TO IMPLEMENT
WHAT IT AGREES TO.

7. COMMENT. PRESS EXAGGERATION ABOUT BEHIND-THE-SCENES
MOMENTUM APPARENTLY HAS BEEN STIMULATED BY GOE TO OVER-
COME INCREASINGLY WIDESPREAD FEAR THAT PEACE PROCESS
HEADING INTO BLIND ALLEY. WHILE SADAT CONTINUES PUT U.S.
PROMINENTLY AT CENTER OF ACTIVITY, THERE IS CERTAIN STAND-
OFFISH QUALITY IN AIR. WE NOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, YESTERDAY'S
PRESS REITERATIONS (REFTEL) THAT AMBASSADOR'S CONTACTS
"TOOK PLACE AT HIS REQUEST", ALONG WITH SADAT'S CASUAL
REFERENCE, IN REMARKS REPORTED TODAY, TO ATHERTON VISIT
TO CAIRO "TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER". THESE ARE UNMIS-
TAKABLY SIGNALS TO U.S. TO MAKE ITS "ACTIVE ROLE" EFFEC-
TIVE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO02945
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780039-0410
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780121/aaaaargk.tel
Line Count: 211
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 0a4809e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAIRO 2844
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3712189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SADAT AND PRESS EXAGGERATE MOMENTUM OF - NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: SOPN, PDEV, EG, IS, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0a4809e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014